



Security Council

Distr.: General
24 December 2002

Original: English

Letter dated 23 December 2002 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo, covering the period 1 to 30 November 2002 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. Annan



Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on KFOR operations

1. Over the reporting period (1 to 30 November 2002) there were almost 30,000 Kosovo Force (KFOR) troops in theatre.

2. Despite some minor incidents, the overall situation in Kosovo during the month of November remained stable.

Security

3. On 16 November, there were three explosions inside the Orthodox church in Durakovac. On 17 November, KFOR reported that the small church in the village of Ljubovo had been destroyed.

4. On 28 November, Kosovar Albanians celebrated the ninetieth anniversary of Albanian independence and the birthday of a National Liberation Army "martyr", Adem Jashari, who was killed in 1998. Celebrations across the province took place peacefully.

5. KFOR continued to carry out Kosovo-wide search operations in its campaign against weapons-smuggling and activities of ethnic Albanian armed groups. Weapons and ammunition were seized daily. Items confiscated during the month included 144 assorted weapons, 230 grenades and mines and 43,509 rounds of ammunition.

6. On 15 November, the KFOR Commander had a meeting with the Head of the General Staff of the Serb Army (VJ), Lieutenant General Krga, to discuss issues of common interest. These included the patrolling of the administrative boundary line; assistance to displaced Kosovar Serbs who wished to return to Kosovo; VJ assistance for the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) plan for Mitrovica; and VJ personnel missing since 1999.

Border/boundary security

7. KFOR continued to monitor border and boundary security during the reporting period, and prevented illegal crossings. The number of incidents involving attempts to cross borders was slightly higher than in the previous month. KFOR intercepted a total of 95 attempts to cross borders illegally.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

8. Federal Republic of Yugoslavia security forces continue to remain in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Military Technical Agreement.

9. Seventeen cases of non-compliance within the Kosovo Protection Corps were reported during the month of November. Fifty-seven cases remain open.

Cooperation with international organizations

10. KFOR and UNMIK continue to work together on a draft resolution framework for Pristina airport setting out the transition of airport operations to UNMIK/civilian control. The scheduled date for the handover of responsibility from Italy to Iceland as the lead nation is 3 March 2003. The new lead nation will be responsible until the

transition is complete. Two areas continue to cause concern: a shortage of air cargo handling equipment and a shortage of firefighters.

Outlook

11. The overall security situation in Kosovo remains stable, despite localized acts of vandalism and intimidation.